

Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

EUR-08 AEC-05 ISO-00 ACDA-05 /026 W

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 4021

C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 25130

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM

SUBJECT: COCOM LIST REVIEW: IL 1715 (A) - BORON-10

REF: STATE 229850

1. ON 23 OCTOBER ITALY, FRANCE, CANADA, BELGIUM, AND GERMANY AGREED TO UK PROPOSAL TO DELETE 1715(A). JAPAN AND NETHERLANDS WERE OPENMINDED. US OPPOSED.

2. UK PROPOSAL BASED ON USSR AND PRC CAPABILITIES IN BORON CHEMISTRY, E.G., PRODUCTION OF ROCKET FUELS AND CIVIL REACTOR SHIELDING. FROM THIS THEY DEDUCED THAT PRC PRODUCED BORON-10 ISOTOPE. THEY FURTHER CITED A USSR PAPER GIVEN IN GENEVA IN 1964 AT FIRST GENEVA CONFERENCE ON PEACEFUL USES OF A.E. RELEVANT TO A BORON-10 PLANT AND BROCHURES OFFERING SALES OF BORON-10 IN PURITIES OF 85 PER CENT AND 95 PER CENT. THEY HAD NO SPECIFICS ON PRC BUT KNEW OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.

3. GERMANY ASKED WHY UK DID NOT PROPOSE DELETION OF 1715(B) ALONG WITH (A), SINCE THIS SEEMED LOGICAL. THEY STATED THAT THEY WERE NOT MAKING A PROPOSAL JUST ASKING A QUESTION. UK ANSWERED THAT THEY HAD NO REASON OTHER THAN THAT THEIR PRIMARY INTEREST WAS IN BORON-10 ISOTOPE. UK SAID SUCH PROPOSAL WOULD BE CONSIDERED IF
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MADE.

4. FRENCH STATED THAT STRATEGIC USES OF BORON WERE ALREADY COVERED ELSEWHERE, E.G., FIBERS UNDER 1763.

5. US STATED THAT BORON-10 WAS USED PRIMARILY FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS PURPOSES IN US. BORON-10 WAS USED IN ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS. IT IS PRIMARILY A NEUTRON ABSORBER. PRODUCTION IS DIFFICULT AND COSTLY, I.E., 10,000 DOLLARS PER KILOGRAM. US DID NOT DISAGREE WITH UK DATA FOR USSR BUT QUESTIONED PRC CAPABILITY AND ACTUAL AVAILABILITY ON COMMERCIAL BASIS FROM USSR. UK REPLIED TO US THAT TREND WAS CIVILIAN WITH USES IN DETERGENTS, CERAMICS, GLASS, AND SHIELDING FOR CIVILIAN-USE FAST BREEDER POWER REACTORS, THE LATTER BEING IMPORTANT UNDER PRESENT DAY CONDITIONS OF POWER SHORTAGES.

6. US INDICATED IT WOULD CONSIDER FURTHER EVIDENCE OF PRC CAPABILITY.
TURNER

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Message Attributes

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